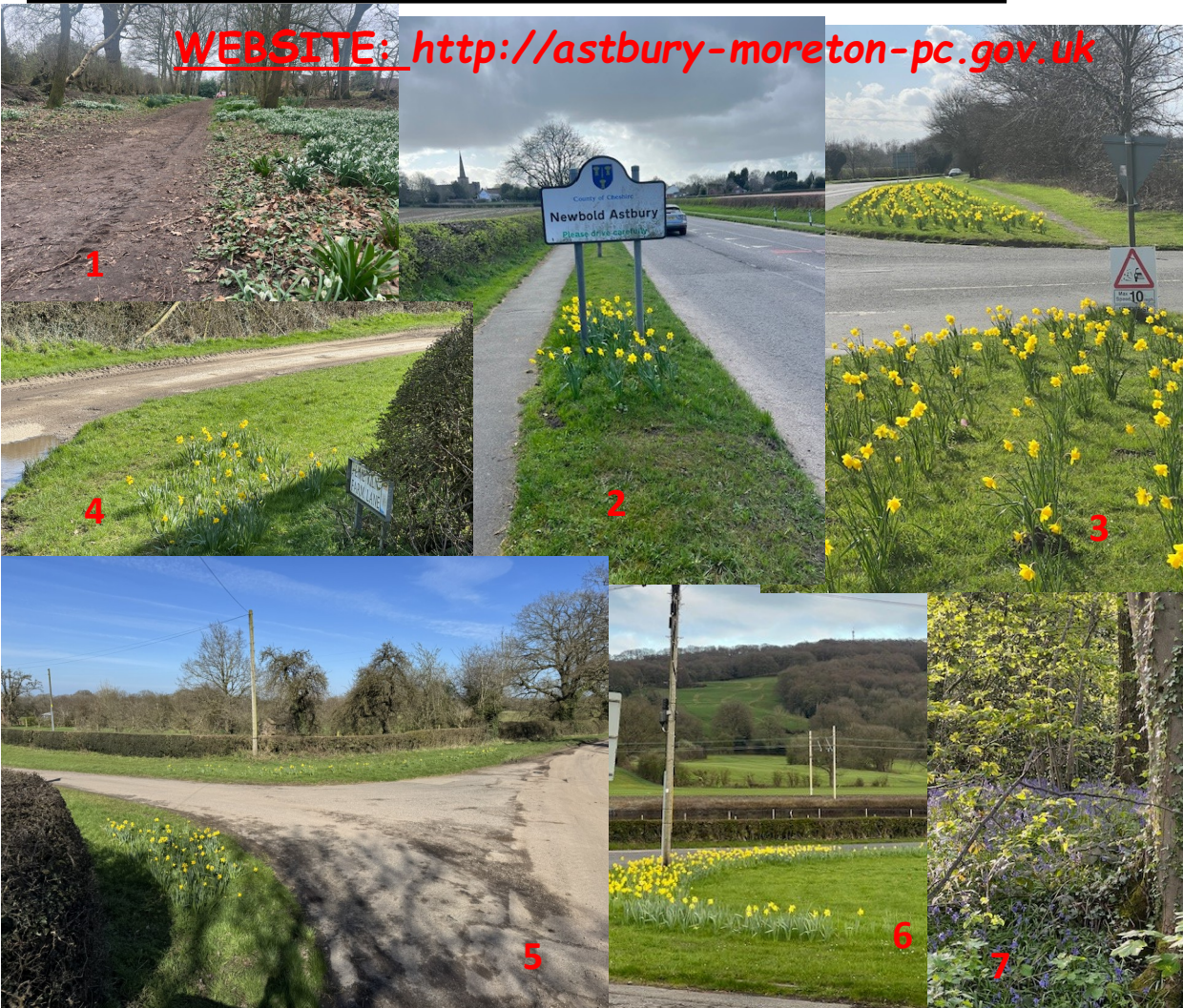


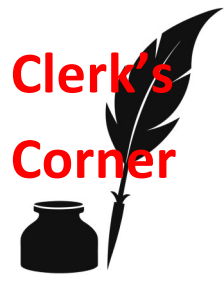
Newbold Astbury & Moreton Cum Alcumlow

Newsletter: May 2026

WEBSITE: <http://astbury-moreton-pc.gov.uk>



Spring, round the parishes. 1. Snow Drops, Sandy Lane, Brownlow. 2. Boundary sign, Astbury Marsh. 3. End of Child's Lane. 4 and 5 Lime Kiln Lane crossroads. 6. Acker's Crossing. 7. Bluebells near Roe Park Lodge.



Finally there's been some progress at Ackers Crossing! A replacement phone box has now been installed (see picture left) ready to house a new defibrillator. Scottish Power will be making the electricity connection and we should be able to get a new cabinet and defib unit soon.

Also some progress with Speed Indicator Devices for Wallhill Lane and Peel Lane, Cheshire East (Highways have installed the mounting posts, the SID has been delivered and so we're hoping to get it up and running soon. The posts and costs of installation were paid for through the Ward Councillor's budget, not the Parish Council's budget.



We spent a little under £29,000 during the 25/26 Financial year, mostly on the phone box, the electricity connection and the SID device, and we received about £27,000 including the precept. It's time for the annual audit so I'll be crunching the numbers over the next few weeks.

Planning permission for one of the large housing developments at the edge of the parish, opposite the Loachbrook Estate in Somerford has been granted, despite our objections. The land agents will now be marketing the site to potential developers. The application for another similar development adjacent to it is still under consideration - we objected to that one also.

Chair's Report 2025/26.

The Parish Council (PC) held 12 meetings, from April 2025 to March 2026. These were attended regularly by Ward Councillor Liz Wardlaw and occasionally by Patrick Redstone. Thank you to them for work on our behalf.

Parishioners have attended meetings and corresponded by email primarily concerning

Planning Applications and Highways including accidents, potholes, fly tipping and anti social behaviour. Please continue to report such incidents to Cheshire East on their website.

There are currently 12 councillors –4 for Moreton cum Alcumlow and 3 for Newbold Astbury. We have one vacancy. We are ably assisted by our clerk Carlton Evans. Our contact details are on our website and the Newsletters and in the Noticeboards.

The council issues a Newsletter usually 4 times a year to all households and businesses across the two parishes. If anyone knows of someone who doesn't receive one please contact the clerk. Please contact us if you have any items of interest you think we can include - details are on our website and newsletters.

Ackers Crossing:- Residents are understandably concerned about the lack of a functioning defibrillator- see Clerk's corner for latest update.

The grit bin in the village near the church ramp was provided by the PC and was filled with grit over the winter period.

The Common Land at Brownlow has had work carried out by Streetscape following a meeting of the PC working group. A number of weak and spindly trees were identified and removed, opening up the canopy creating more light. Paths have been redefined with felled wood and bark chippings have been added. A further programme of work is being developed to enhance biodiversity on the site.

Village Green- Gypsum was spread in the Autumn to boost daffodil growth and flowering to a sparse area. More work will be needed as there were fewer flowers in that area.

A section of the A34 had been sided out between Brownlow Heath Lane and the lane to Moreton Cottages. This was funded by the Ward budget.

The PC erected signs to commemorate V E and V J days and additional large poppies were placed around the parishes with the names of the soldiers who fell in the two world wars was added.

The PC have purchased a Speed Indicator Device which can be moved between locations. Cheshire East have now installed the poles on Peel lane and Wall Hill lane. This device will enable the PC to have access to traffic information- volumes and speed etc.

Finally thank you to Carlton for the work he does for us and thanks to my fellow councillors who all volunteer their time working on behalf of the Parishioners.

Judith Critchlow Chair

Astbury WI April Meeting



President Kate Naylor opened the meeting and welcomed all members new and old. Jerusalem was sung. Our April birthday buttonholes were then distributed.

The book swap table was organised by Maureen Steele. Our competition this month was "A School Memento" officiated once again by Jen Fagan and was won by Catherine Pedley with her old School Journal

This month's speaker was Geoff Scargill the title of his talk was "I've Only Just Left School" which was a reflection of Geoff's life as a student, a teacher and a head master.

Geoff told many anecdotes and stories, both funny and poignant beginning at his primary school and ending with the school where he finished his career as a headmaster. Along the way he attended Manchester Grammar School for Boys, which was quite an achievement for a young boy from an ordinary single parent background in Northenden. He fondly remembered all the teachers who helped him along the way although he did not necessarily like all of them. He also had tales about pupils and he had us all laughing out loud with his insights of teacher pupil relationships and we all could relate and reminisce about our own childhoods. Just lovely to see so many laughing faces in the audience.

There was an even more important aspect to our evening with Geoff. Several years ago his son had a serious illness which he has recovered from largely due to the skills of a wonderful bold surgeon, and Geoff made a pledge then and there to raise money for research. Since then any money Geoff has received for his popular talks to groups just like ours have been donated to this surgeon and Geoff told us very modestly, that to date, he has raised a massive £140,000 - an incredible achievement. He has a list of other topics he talks about and we will definitely be inviting him back. It was an absolutely hilarious and joyous evening which we all enjoyed.

We then finished the evening off with our National Anthem assisted by Lisa Cartilage on piano. And the meeting was closed.

Our next meeting list to be held on Wednesday 6th May at 7.30pm all are welcome and should you wish to find any more information about Astbury WI please contact Kate Naylor on 07875691170. We always warmly welcome new members!

Dotty Kallis on behalf of Astbury Women's Institute.



ASTBURY MAY DAY

SATURDAY 16 MAY



**BBQ • Dog Show • Games • Maypole
Dancing • Inflatables**
Plus much more for you to enjoy
— 11am – 5pm —
at Glebe Farm, Astbury

Who lived in your house a century (well, 105!) years ago?

There were 23 inhabited properties recorded in Moreton cum Alcumlow on the 1921 census which was taken on the evening of Sunday 19th. June 1921. (The order of houses which seems mixed up, is as recorded on the census documents!)

Gt. Moreton Hall: Robert Graham Peel, cotton merchant and 31 others. East Lodge (New Rd.): Charles Robinson, chauffer and 1 other. West Lodge: (A34) George Hand, shepherd and 3 others. New Home Farm: George D Bacon, farm bailiff and 3 others. Hall Farm: (New Rd) Frederick J Hall, farmer and 8 others. Railway Crossing: Emma Pedley, North Staffs. Railway gatekeeper and 3 others. Roe Park Lodge: Hannah Armit, home duties and 1 other. Roe Park: William Brocklehurst, colliery boiler fireman and 5 others. Lodge Farm: Joseph Holland, farmer and 4 others. Roe Park Farm: George Potts, farmer and 4 others. Moreton Farm: (Brook Lane) John T Yates, farmer and 4 others. Alcumlow Hall Farm: James Laithwood, farmer and 8 others. Alcumlow Cottages: (1) James Goodwin, farm labourer plus 3 others. Alcumlow Cottages: (2) Ernest Mees, farm labourer plus 2 others. Alcumlow Cottages (Chance Hall Cottages): Arthur Dale, farm labourer and 6 others. Moreton Green: (1 Ivy Cottages) Jonas Parkinson railway signalman and 2 others. Moreton Green: (Canal Bridge): James Parrott, garden labourer and 2 others. Moreton (Brook House): Edward C Squibb, engine attendant, electric plant and 3 others. Moreton (Garden House @ Moreton Hall): Frank Kay, head gardener and 1 other. Wood Farm: William Beckett, dairy farmer and 6 others. Keeper's Lodge: Robert Parnham, gamekeeper, and 2 others. Alcumlow Cottages (Chance Hall Cottages): Frederick Bebbington, colliery shunter and 5 others. Moreton Green: (2 Ivy Cottages) Arthur W Southwell, beer and spirit bottler, and 5 others.

If you would like more details and a print of the inhabitants of your house on this census, (for a donation of £5.00 to Astbury Church) please contact Councillor Phill Critchlow at: phill.critchlow@astbury-moreton-pc.gov.uk



Astbury Church-spring report.

Remembering Jesus's joyous ride into Jerusalem, on 29th March, Palm Sunday, Astbury church opened up with a donkey procession from Glebe farm to the service in church. It was very good to be back in St. Mary's, with grateful thanks to St. John's, Smallwood for hosting us during the winter. Already, a packed church has supported two baptisms and enjoyed a wonderful wedding, a good start to a year when we must do some serious fund raising. Our beautiful, ancient church, with its large stones and lofty roof, costs a great deal to make warm, and with other expenses needs a large monthly sum to run. We hope you will visit us and enjoy and support our future events. The Ladies Fellowship will have its plant stall at the May Day-(this year on Sat 16th May from 11am-5pm at Glebe Farm. The maypole has just been erected, and we look forward to it-the procession, the crowning, the dancing, the opportunity to browse round some 90 stalls with all sorts of goodies. There will be a dog competition-bring the pets along-refreshments in the WI marquee with a competition for the best Victoria sponge, and for children, a cake to do with their favourite pet. ('Mary Kate Berry' will visit Astbury school in May, to discuss.) Burgers and Beer will be available. We look forward to an amazing day. Don't forget the Fellowship plant stall-cuttings and plants to choose from!

Carole Goodwin.

Who are we? Please feel free to get in touch

Judith Critchlow (Chair) 01260 272174 (M)

Nick Plant (vice chair) 07801 545402 (A)

Carlton Evans (Clerk) 07734 808677

Andy Banks 01260 281194 (A)

Megan Bailey 01260 641292 (A)

Peter Cliff 01260 275700 (M)

Phill Critchlow 01260 272174 (M)

Sean Harrop 07900 045495 (A)

Tracey Potts 07780 310 962 (A)

Barbara Jelf 01477 500541 (M)

Ian Parry 07917 050 443 (A)

Clare Pear 07764 761475 (A)

Carrie Sutton 07979 983915 (A)

(A) - Newbold Astbury Ward

(M) - Moreton cum Alcumlow Ward

We meet in Astbury Village Hall on the 2nd. Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm. Please feel free to come along.

Please check the website for the dates of our meetings.